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NEWS FEATURE | 19 January 2021

# Rogue antibodies could be driving severe COVID-19

**Evidence is growing that self-attacking 'autoantibodies' could be the key to understanding some of the worst cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection.**

By Roxanne Khamsi

Physicians treat a person with COVID-19 at a hospital's intensive-care unit in the Czech Republic. Credit: Gabriel Kuchta/Getty

More than a year after COVID-19 emerged, many mysteries persist about the disease: why do some people get so much sicker than others? Why does lung damage sometimes continue to worsen well after the body seems to have cleared the SARS-CoV-2 virus? And what is behind the extended, multi-organ illness that lasts for months in people with 'long COVID'? A growing number of studies suggest that some of these questions might be explained by the immune system mistakenly turning against the body — a phenomenon known as autoimmunity.


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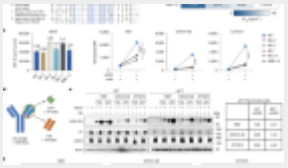

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